

Inside Wallops

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CoastalObs III -- A NASA, NOAA, CIT Joint Program

Coastal regions within the Mid-Atlantic Bight are directly influenced by regional freshwater fluxes that emanate from several large bay systems such as the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays.

The outflows from these bays have high sediment loads and high levels of nutrients, particulate, and dissolved organic matter that influence the adjacent coastal margin ecosystems. This coastal region also is downwind of a large number of metropolitan and industrial regions that impact the region through air-shed fluxes.

CoastalObs III is a collaborative effort between the Center for Innovative Technology, NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and a number of governmental, academic, and nonacademic partners to develop and deploy an observing system to monitor this coastal region.

A primary focus is to develop and apply technologies to support research, observation/monitoring efforts and management applications on the coastal ocean. New sensors, platforms and applications that can be used to enhance this observing system and support coastal ocean remote sensing activities and products will be developed and tested.

NASA WFF's Ocean-Atmosphere Sensor Integration System (OASIS) is an autonomous surface vehicle that functions as a platform for operating a number of oceanographic and meteorological instruments.

It is powered by solar panels, traditional lead acid batteries, has an electric motor, can reach speeds in excess of 3 knots and is controlled remotely through an Iridium satellite communication link. The applications of this platform can range from oceanographic research by scientists to routine weather observations by the National Weather Service and NOAA.

The OASIS vehicle, developed by NASA and NOAA, has recently been commercialized through support from NASA's Small Business Innovation Research program.



The OASIS platform. NASA Photo

The Ocean Sciences Branch is developing a multi-spectral in-situ fluorometer to support the detection of harmful algal bloom and a robotic arm for controlled pointing of optical instruments to be used for above-water radiance measurements. Both devices will be incorporated into OASIS platforms.

The Coastal Bio-Optical Buoy, (COBY), is a scientific mooring that will be deployed approximately 25 miles offshore of Wallops Island in late 2006. The buoy will house instruments to measure the meteorological, biological and physical oceanographic properties of the region.

Another major part of the program is BIOME (Bio-Physical Interactions in Coastal Margin Ecosystems) that entails seasonal oceanographic cruises to monitor various meteorological, biological and physical interactions in the coastal region of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

These observations will be available to the public.

The Coastal Ocean Surface Current Radar (CODAR) is a series of three long-range and two standard-range coastal surface ocean current HF radar systems. The long-range systems are being deployed along the Delmarva Peninsula. The standard-range systems are being added to existing systems already at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. These systems will provide real-time coastal current estimates.

The Coastal Data Acquisition and Archive Center (CODAAC) will archive and distribute data in support of the CoastalObs III. The CODAAC will host a website for access to data products and support standards-based interfaces for data exchange.

Wallops Shorts.....

Launch

A NASA Terrier Black Brant sounding rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range, (WSMR), N.M., on August 21. The reimbursable launch was to present a multi-body dynamic target above 120 km from the north end of WSMR. Actual altitude was 380.6 km. Recovery is in progress. William Audenaert, Missile Defense Agency, was the principal investigator. Ted Gass, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, was the mission manager.

In the News

Shephard UV Online, "Aerosonde Makes Successful Flight of a MicroSpectrometer Payload on UAV"

Daily Times, "Internet Project Breaks Ground"

Eastern Shore News, "NASA Wallops Scientists go to Africa to Study Hurricanes"

NASA Civil Service Employees -- Do you know?

Do you know what is available to you at or through the Wallops Health Unit? In an effort to better serve you, the staff of the Wallops Health Unit would like to share with you the following. This information may be useful to a new NASA employee, but an "old-timer" may find "new" information, too. If you have recently transferred to Wallops, you may find what is available at this Health Unit differs from your previous center's health unit.

- Work injury care
- Work illness care
- Lactation facility
- Medical consultations
- Blood pressure checks
- Educational material
- Initial evaluation of minor personal illness and injury
- Stress test (Exercise Tolerance Test)
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy (Beginning at age 50)
- Immunizations e.g. Influenza, Td (Tetanus/Diphtheria)



Travel evaluations – for NASA travel – includes immunization review, giving of needed/required vaccines, information appropriate to the region to which you are traveling. Call at least 6 weeks prior to the departure date. Travel Manager requires an evaluation must be completed 30 days prior to departure)

Safety glasses program. Safety glasses are now obtained through directorate funding.. Call Stanley Williams at x2369 with any questions you may have concerning safety glasses.

Annual Physical

If you previously had annual physicals in the Health Unit and are not receiving a reminder, call Sherry Pruitt at x1766 to schedule a physical or to have your name added to the reminder list.

Our Universe Looks Like a Woman Without a Facelift!

August 23
1:30 – 3 p.m.

Emily Levine, Humorist, Radio Commentator and TV Writer/Producer uses science to deliver trenchant and hilarious commentary on politics, economics, the media, sex drugs and rock n' roll.

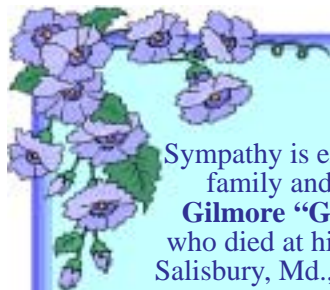
Convinced that our picture of the universe is closely linked with how we picture ourselves fitting in the universe, she explores the shift from the universe of Newtonian physics.

In a critique equally funny and compelling, Levine persuades us that, in this new universe, every day is equality day for women.

The presentation will be shown in Building F-6, Room 213 and also on Wallops Channel 7.

Space Shuttle Atlantis Launch Date Set

NASA senior managers have given the 'Go' to launch the Space Shuttle Atlantis on August 27. Commander Brent Jett and his five crewmates are scheduled to lift off at 4:30 p.m. EDT on the STS-115 mission, which restarts construction of the International Space Station.



Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Gilmore "Gil" Trafford** who died at his residence in Salisbury, Md., on August 16.

Trafford retired in 1995 as an electronic engineer in the Data and Communications Systems Section, NASA Wallops Flight Facility with 32 years of government service. He is survived by his wife, Jean, three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Lobster Fest Was Great

I just can't say enough how great this year's lobster fest was. Starting at the arrival at the gate with the badges already prepared and waiting was just fantastic! That set a relaxed and excited mood for the rest of the evening, that was every bit as good as could be expected or wanted. Please let everyone know who was involved in preparing for and serving the meal that it was very much enjoyed!

Thanks again to everyone,
Richard Mitchel,
Airborne Oceanographic
Lidar Laboratory

Old Dominion University Fall Semester Class Listing

Take a class and expand your horizon.
Only minutes from your work site!

Check with your supervisor and training office to see if a particular class qualifies for tuition payment by the government or your company.

Classes are offered at the Navy's Cropper Center just outside the Wallops Main Base and the Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, Va.

For more information, call Nancy Collins (Site Director) at 757-824-0763 or 757-787-5590 or visit: www.odu.edu

Massage Therapy

August 28
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Building E-2, Training Room

Amy Eckard, Massage Therapist from Massage Away, will be here offering chair massages at the cost of \$1.00 per minute. You decide how many minutes you want and schedule for that length of time with the Wallops Health Unit. Payment will be due to at the time of your massage. Privacy is provided. Call the Health Unit at x1266 to schedule an appointment.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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